REMARKS

The Examiner will note that independent claims 1, 13, 21 and 34 have been amended to specify that the dewaxing catalyst is ZSM-48. This incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 5, 16 and 24 into the corresponding independent claims as well as into claim 34.

The Examiner's Rejection Statement of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-28 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2,109,402.

GB 2,109,402 disclosed a dewaxing process and a method for activating a zeolite catalyst useful in such a process (page 1, lines 5-20 and lines 85-92). It is taught that the activity of a zeolite catalyst may be enhanced or maintained by co-feeding water and/or a water precursor such as an alcohol to the reaction zone (page 1, lines 60-70). It is taught that the water or water precursor such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, and 2-pentanol, may be injected into the reaction zone, either directly to the reactor or combines ith the feed (page 3, lines 100-110). It is taught that about 0.01 to about 30 volumes of water-water precursor pre unit volume of catalyst are effective fro prolonging catalyst life (page 3, lines 115-125). It is taught that the conditions of catalytic dewaxing used (and thus the conditions of the activation process) are temperatures from 300 - 500 degrees C and pressures of 5000kPa or greater (page 3, lines 20-30).

Suitable zeolites include ZSM-5, ZSM-11, ZSM-12, ZSM-35, ZSM-38, zeolite Y, zeolite beta, and ZSM-20 (page 1, lines 115-130 and page 2, lines 1-10). It is taught that the zeolite may be combines with a hydrogenation component, including group 9 or 10 noble metals such as platinum and/or palladium (page 3, lines 75-80). The catalyst may be incorporated into an alumina or alumina-containing binder material (page 3, lines 94-100). The catalyst may also be presulfided, particularly if a base metal is used (page 3, lines 80-90).

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As each and every element of the claimed invention is taught in the prior art as recited above, the claims are anticipated by GB 2,109,402.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5, 16, and 24 are objected to as being depended upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 29-33 are allowed.

Applicants' Remarks

Claims 5, 16, and 24 are incorporated into claims 1, 13 and 21 thus stating that the dewaxing catalyst is ZSM-48. This amendment conforms the dewaxing catalyst to that specified in allowed claims 29-33, claims 13 and 21 additionally specify the inclusion of metal hydrogenation component onto the ZSM-48 catalyst.

Dependent claims relating to non-ZSM-48 dewaxing catalysts have been canceled.

It is urged that this amendment to the claims overcomes the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-28 and 34 as anticipated by GB 2,109,402 and places the case in condition to be allowed. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

Date:

Gerard J. Hughes, Reg. No. 41,855
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone No.: (225) 977-4942
Facsimile No.: (225) 977-1025

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